GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2674
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
STARVATION DEATHS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether starvation and poverty is widespread in the country, particularly rural and backward areas where people are not having any income due to drought and are dying of starvation;

(b) if so, the deaths of such details during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(d) whether the Government proposes to approved some scheme for construction of rural roads, digging of tanks, water works etc. under the rural development programmes for the affected people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a)&(b) No incidence of starvation death has been reported by any State Governments/Union Territory in the country so far.

(c) To maintain food security in the country, the Government is allocating foodgrains at subsidized rates for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty Line (APL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System and for the following Welfare Schemes :-

(i) Mid day Meal (administered by Ministry of Human Resources Development)

(ii) Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent girls (administered by Ministry of Women and Child Development)

(iii) Samppoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and Special Component of SGRY (administered by Ministry of Rural Development)

(iv) Annapurna Scheme

(v) Village Grain Banks Scheme.

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes for Rural Development for poverty reduction, employment generation and rural infrastructure and amenities creation. Under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, wage employment is provided and assets are created including rural roads, tanks and water works etc. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, rural connectivity is provided by constructing all-weather roads. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, assistance is provided to the rural poor to construct houses. The programmes of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Total Sanitation Campaign aims at providing basic amenities like safe drinking water and sanitation. Similarly the programmes of Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme aims at enhancing livelihood by adopting watershed approach in rural areas.